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er, who was a founder of the republic and a parent of the diarist. It is of uneven value and interest but it records facts that are not unworthy of preservation.

No trait of the American backwoodsman was more pronounced than his readiness to assume powers of government and to become a member of a social contract group. The Indian Stream republic is one of the earlier illustrations of this trait, finding its field, not in the far west where an inactive United States had failed to protect its citizens and pioneers, but on the borderland of Maine, New Hampshire, and Canada, around the sources of the Connecticut river. The area in question was long in dispute between Great Britain and the United States because of the uncertainty of interpretation of the treaty of 1783, according to which the line followed the St. Lawrence "highlands" to the source of the Connecticut river. Since this river had several tributary streams any of which might be defended as the true source, an area of contention was created, into which settlers began to move about 1796. After a generation spent in fighting off, alternately, the respective claims of Canada or the United States to jurisdiction, the handful of settlers here organized their republic in 1832. Ten years later the Webster-Ashburton treaty gave the United States clear title to the lands in contest. But by this year Luther Parker had moved to Wisconsin and had entered upon a new chapter of his development.

The volume will appeal to those whose interest takes them into genealogy, or boundary contests, or American political philosophy.

F. L. P.

Charles Francis Adams, 1835-1915, an autobiography. With a memorial address delivered November 17, 1915, by Henry Cabot Lodge. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin company, 1916. 224 p. \$3.00 net)

This surprisingly frank and characteristic record was evidently not intended as a completed autobiography, for Mr. Adams sent the manuscript to the Massachusetts historical society in 1913 to serve as material for a memoir to be prepared for publication at a suitable time in the society's *Proceedings*. We are thankful, however, that it was decided to print the "autobiographical sketch" as it came from the writer's hand. The ripe product of his old age, it probably does not contain anything that he would at a later time have suppressed.

Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge contributes to the volume a memorial address, composed in his most finished manner. But the reader will not linger over the stately pages of Mr. Lodge; Mr. Adams's chapters are far better reading. They are written in his best style, clear, incisive, vigorous, racy; an excellent style, in fact, acquired early, and practiced rather industriously for more than fifty years. As an example of self-

analysis this book stands almost alone in American literature. Undeniably interesting and stimulating, in a way great, it will arouse antagonism in some quarters, as frequently did other writings of Mr. Adams. But those who have a robust belief in frankness of the outspoken kind, coupled with searching self-judgment, will here find matter in plenty to their liking. Moreover, it is a record of real achievement. Throughout his varied and rich life Charles Francis Adams was constantly revealing himself; a strong and striking personality, he did not attract people in a popular sense. Perhaps he craved popularity—indeed, he admits as much—but he was not cast in the right mould to attain it. In one whose mental characteristics were less marked and less well known we might suspect a striving after effect and color, a pose. Not so with Mr. Adams: such was quite foreign to his nature. He is sincere and means what he says. Nevertheless, it is apparent that some of his criticisms are too severe, both as to himself and to others. With the spirit of iconoclasm ever present, and possessed of a manner decided and somewhat brusque, he not infrequently made an unfavorable impression. Yet in spite of what he himself says about the Adams way of doing things, he could and did do many kind acts in a gracious manner. He was often generously and tactfully helpful, as many can bear witness. Essentially, he was a large-hearted man.

The *Autobiography* is divided into five parts: youth and education, law and politics, Washington, 1861, war and army life, and public service and history. As Mr. Adams views it, after a lapse of more than half a century, his youth was not passed amid proper surroundings, and his education was sadly mismanaged. With amazing frankness and freedom of expression he at this point deals with his father and other members of the family. Of the law he made a failure; and no wonder, for he despised the profession. His civil war experience was more fortunate; it toughened his fibre and was in many ways beneficial. Then came the struggle to gain a footing in the world. The opportunity came at last, and it was of his own making. Railroads he deemed would offer the largest field for his activities. Articles on the subject flowed from his industrious pen—and finally the *Chapter of Erie*. He soon became widely known as an authority, and his fertile mind conceived a plan for the first effective railroad commission, and, largely through his efforts, the Massachusetts commission was formed in 1869, on which he sought and obtained a place, serving with conspicuous success for ten years. In 1884 he was made president of the Union Pacific, remaining in that capacity six and a half years. During the first five years of his presidency he did splendid work, and had he then resigned all would have been well; but during the last eighteen months he went to pieces, became de-

moralized as he himself says. Then followed the long period during which he devoted himself to his own business affairs and to historical study.

Although never a politician, Mr. Adams rendered worthy public service in various capacities. For many years he was a lively member of the board of overseers of Harvard, and his dicta on matters of higher education, if they did not revolutionize the established order, were in a measure at least profitable, and attracted wide attention. In 1895 he became president of the Massachusetts historical society; he vitalized this staid organization, and shaped its course in many useful directions.

Charles Francis Adams's work as an historian is one of his most noteworthy accomplishments. From his college days wielding a ready and trenchant pen, possessed of a fine intellectual equipment, including an uncommon share of open-mindedness, he took to historical writing in a manner quite unexpected. Much to his surprise, in 1874, he was invited to deliver an address at Weymouth on the occasion of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the permanent settlement of that place. Although then little versed in the early history of his native commonwealth, he decided to accept the invitation. Of this event he writes: "Wholly unconsciously on my part and with no sense of volition, I entered on a path which led far — for me very far! Indeed, I then found my vocation." From this time forward he never completely lost interest in historical work. It gave to him, perhaps, his happiest hours. As leisure came to him he at first wrote on the earlier periods of Massachusetts history. His work as editor of Thomas Morton's *New English Canaan* (1883), and of the documents gathered under the title of *Antinomianism in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, 1636-1638* (1894), is of the highest order; in fact, nothing better of the sort has been done by an American scholar. Mr. Adams once remarked that, in looking back over many years of literary labor, the editing of these two books for the Prince society had left, on the whole, "the pleasantest taste in recollection's mouth." *Three episodes of Massachusetts history* (1892) is the best work that we have on the subjects treated; and no one should pass by the little volume on *Massachusetts: its historians and its history* (1893), for in it are developed Mr. Adams's final conclusions respecting Massachusetts history and its treatment by native historians. A piquant and clear-headed discussion of the subject, it is well to read this book as an offset to the unchecked stream of adulation which has been lavished on the Puritan hierarchy by the "filio-pietistic" school of historians.

At a later time he dealt more particularly with the civil war period, and his many studies of various phases of the subject, especially on its diplomatic side, will doubtless be resorted to with profit by future writ-

ers. With a singularly active and original mind, Mr. Adams was engaged in many historical fields; and, unfortunately, he failed to center his effort on a single sustained piece of work until it was too late to finish it. This has reference to what he hoped would be a *magnum opus*, a diplomatic history of the civil war in the form of an extended biography of his father. It is to be hoped that Mr. Adams's materials can be put into form by another hand.

Nor are his historical writings in the dry-as-dust class. With a keen eye for the dramatic, a gift for happy characterization, he is always eminently readable. The tonic quality is seldom absent. He was capable even of enlivening an issue of a historical journal. Whether we are in agreement with his conclusions or not, he holds our attention to the end and invites our admiration. Another quality which makes a strong appeal is a perfect willingness to have his views subjected to searching criticism, and a readiness to change on proper grounds a position already taken. A single illustration of this will suffice. Having prepared, some twenty-five years ago, a study of New England town and church government, he submitted his paper to two of his associates in the Massachusetts historical society. "These copies," he says, "were in due course of time returned to me by both gentlemen with long and friendly letters, for which, though they satisfied me completely that my theories would not bear examination, I felt greatly obliged. After reading their letters it was obvious to me that I had, by no means for the first time, fallen into the error of generalizing from insufficient data."

JOHN THOMAS LEE

New York's part in history. By Sherman Williams. (New York and London : D. Appleton and company, 1915. 391 pp. \$2.50 net)

As suggested by the title, *New York's part in history*, as explained in the preface and repeatedly emphasized in the text, Mr. Sherman Williams has written this volume as a justification of the empire state. Like other patriotic New Yorkers, Mr. Williams protests against the disproportionate attention which historians have paid to other sections of our country, especially New England. He laments the fact that New England has had so many historians to herald her fame to the world if not to manufacture it, while New York has had so few to do justice to her noble history. Again we are reminded that the first blood of the revolution was spilled not on King street but on Golden Hill, that New York also had a "tea party," that in the battle of Oriskany it had "the most bitterly contested and the bloodiest battle of the Revolution," and that in the trial of John Peter Zenger it contributed "the most important and far reaching single political event in all our history." We are assured